

colliery magnates like the Duke and the
Marquesses of Bute
and Londonderry, were miners' wives from
various parts
of the land, bankers like Mr Walter Leaf, great
administrators
like Lord Haldane, and economists like
Professor Pigou,
Mr J A Hobson and Mr Arthur Bowley

The early stages of the Commission's work
were devoted
to the miners' claim for an increase in wage
rates and a
reduction of hours The impressive picture of
the hardships
endured by the miner and his family that
emerged from the
proceedings was then new to the great public

It was set,
in startling contrast, against the thirteen
million pounds of
average annual profit flowing to the owners in
1909-14, and
the fantastic war-time figures—thirty-
seven and three-
quarter millions of profit in 1916 and as
much in 1918,
there was no resisting the conclusion that
some advance in
pay and some reduction in hours must be
conceded Three

Reports on this were presented, that of
owners, that of the
miners, and, as a middle way between the two,
that signed

by Mr Justice Sankey, Sir Thomas Royden,
Sir Arthur
Duckham, and Mr Arthur Balfour (of
Sheffield) The

proposals of this last group earned with them
the significant
addendum, that "the present system of
ownership and of
working stands condemned and some other,
unified system
must be substituted for it " Whereupon, on

March soth,
1919, Mr Bonar Law (acting Premier) stated, in
the House,
and next day wrote to confirm, that the
Government

"are prepared to carry out the spirit and in the letter the recommendations of Mr Justice Sankey's Report "

On this clear understanding, the Federation withdrew the strike notices

When the Commission resumed its work, its enquiries

were directed to the larger issues of ownership and control

On these, two members of the Commission, Sidney Webb and

Sir Leo Money, took the stand to give evidence—a procedure